

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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P 221735Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5453
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 07994

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, US
SUBJECT: US REPLY TO DPQ 77

REF: (A) STATE 198323 (DTG 200024Z AUG 77)(NOTAL), (B)
USNATO 07711 (DTG 110714Z AUG 77), (C) STATE 188068
(DTG 092233Z AUG 77), (D) USNATO 7449 (DTG 030801Z AUG 77),
(E) STATE 256195 (DTG 291843Z OCT 75)(NOTAL)
SUMMARY: CONTINUED DELAY IN SUBMISSION OF US REPLY TO
DPQ(77) COULD IMPACT ADVERSELY ON NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES.
CANCELLATION OF INTERNATIONAL STAFF REQUESTED MID-SEPTEMBER
TRILATERAL IN WASHINGTON IS NOW NECESSARY. WE RECOMMEND
HOLDING US TRILATERAL LATER IN BRUSSELS, IF NECESSARY.
ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 6. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE COURSE OF DEPUTY DEFAD'S DISCUSSIONS WITH
ACTING ASYG FOR DEFENSE PLANNING AND POLICY BRABAND ON
HANDLING OF THE SHORT-TERM MEASURES (REF A), REPORTED
SEPTEL, BRABAND RAISED THE MATTER OF THE ALREADY THREE
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WEEKS OVERDUE US REPLY TO DPQ(77). BRABAND STATED THAT IF
THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS) DOES NOT RECEIVE THE US REPLY
THIS WEEK, HE WOULD HAVE TO CANCEL BOTH THE US AND CANADIAN
TRILATERALS WHICH THE IS HAD PLANNED TO HOLD DURING THE
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12 (REFS B-D). BRABAND ADDED THAT, IN
VIEW OF THE HEAVY FALL SCHEDULE, THE IS WOULD NOT BE ABLE
TO RESCHEDULE THESE TRILATERALS FOR A LATER DATE.

2. TO BRABAND'S SUGGESTION THAT, SHOULD ONLY ONE OR TWO ISSUES BE THE CAUSE OF THE DELAY, THE US FOLLOW THE COURSE OF OTHER ALLIES AND RELEASE THE REMAINDER OF THE DPQ RESPONSE, DEPUTY DEFAD RESPONDED, ALONG THE LINES OF REF E, THAT THE HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW OF THE US REPLY REQUIRED CONSIDERATION OF THE RESPONSE IN ITS ENTIRETY.

3. BRABAND STATED THAT SHOULD THE US REPLY BE VERY LATE, AS LAST YEAR, THIS WOULD AFFECT ADVERSELY THE IS ABILITY TO ANALYZE THE NATO INITIATIVES AND ADDED THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING RECOMMENDING THAT NATO HQ SEND A CABLE TO WASHINGTON ON THIS MATTER.

4. COMMENT: FURTHER DELAY IN OUR DPQ REPLY AND CONSEQUENT REPETITION OF OUR EXCEEDINGLY LATE SUBMISSION OF THE LAST TWO YEARS WOULD BE REGRETTABLE ENOUGH IN ITSELF, BUT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY SO AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE WORKING TO ENERGIZE THE ALLIANCE WITH THE NATO LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM INITIATIVES LAUNCHED BY THE PRESIDENT IN LONDON. OUR ALLIES AND THE NATO STAFFS TAKE THIS BUILDING BLOCK OF NATO DEFENSE PLANNING MOST SERIOUSLY. WE MUST UNDERLINE THE CREDIBILITY OF OUR INITIATIVES TO UPGRADE NATO DEFENSE BY PROMPT PERFORMANCE ON THE STEPS OUR ALLIES EXPECT OF US IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM. THOUGH RECOGNIZING THAT OUR DPQ RELEASE REQUIRES REVIEW AND APPROVAL AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, AN INEVITABLY TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS, AND THAT THE REMAIN-

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ING ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED IS A SERIOUS ONE, WE URGE THAT ALL FEASIBLE STEPS BE TAKEN TO EXPEDITE THE RELEASE OF THE US REPLY.

5. SUBJECT TO WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE, WE PROPOSE TO INFORM THE IS THAT THE US REPLY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE BY WEEKS-END AND THAT SHOULD A DATE LATER IN THE FALL THAN MID-SEPTEMBER NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR NORTH AMERICAN TRI-LATERALS, SUGGEST THAT THE IS PLAN TO HOLD THE US TRI-LATERAL IN BRUSSELS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF US FORCE AND FINANCIAL PLANS. END COMMENT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE WITH OUR PROPOSED APPROACH BY OPENING OF BUSINESS, AUGUST 25.
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